

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Jim Freid, et al.

Serial No.: not yet assigned
(Continuation of USSN 10/015,206; filed
November 19, 2001)

Filed: December 15, 2003

For: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR
STABILIZING THE HUMAN SPINE WITH
A BONE PLATE

Attorney Docket No.: 5259-03700USC2

Group Art Unit: not yet assigned

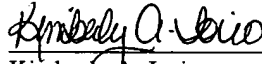
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Kimberly A. Iorio

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

MS Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Prior to the examination on the merits of the above-identified application,
Applicants respectfully submit the following amendments and request their entry into the
record.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 7 of this paper.